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IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended)   A method for producing a service report for a service performed on a medical device by a service provider, comprising:

operating a computer system to receive medical device data transmitted automatically to the computer system from a medical device via a communications network, wherein the medical device is operable to detect an alteration of at least one of medical device hardware and ~~or~~ medical device software, wherein the alteration of the medical device software comprises a software upgrade, and wherein the medical device data transmitted automatically by the medical device is representative of the alteration;

operating the computer system to receive service provider data transmitted automatically to the computer system via the communications network, wherein the service provider data comprises information related to the service performed on the medical device; and

operating the computer system to generate a service report based on the medical device data and the service provider data.

2. (original)   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service provider data comprises GPS location data from a remote device transported by the service provider.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

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6. (currently amended)   A method for facilitating the preparation of a service report for a medical device; comprising:

providing medical device data automatically from the medical device to a computer system via a communications network, wherein the medical device is operable to detect an alteration of at least one of medical device hardware and ~~or~~ medical device software, wherein the alteration of the medical device software comprises a software upgrade, and wherein the medical device data transmitted automatically by the medical device is representative of the alteration;

providing service provider data automatically to the computer system via a communications network, wherein the service provider data comprises information related to the service performed on the medical device; and

generating a service report based on the service data and the service provider data automatically using the computer system.

7. (original)   The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service report comprises a listing of services performed by the service provider based on the service provider data.

8. (original)   The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service report comprises a listing of parts replaced by the service provider based on the service data.

9. (original)   The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service provider data comprises GPS location data for the service provider and the service report comprises the GPS location data.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the service report comprises service time data for the service provider.

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11. (original) The method as recited in claim 6, comprising transmitting the service report from the computer system to a remote device to enable a user to revise the service report.

12. (currently amended)   A medical information system, comprising:

a medical device comprising hardware and software, the medical device being operable to communicate with a remote computer via a communication system, wherein the medical device is operable to detect a change in each of the hardware and the software, wherein the change in software comprises a software upgrade, and to automatically transmit a signal representative of the change to the remote computer.

13. (original) The medical information system as recited in claim 12, wherein the medical device is a medical imaging system.

14. (previously presented) The medical information system as recited in claims 12, wherein the communication system comprises a network.

15. (currently amended) A ~~machine-readable medium~~ processor-based system, comprising:

machine-executable programming instructions physically stored in the ~~machine-readable medium~~ processor-based system, wherein the programming instructions enable a processor-based device to produce a service report for a medical device based on medical device data received automatically from the medical device and service provider data received automatically from a remote device, wherein the medical device is operable to detect an alteration of at least one of medical device hardware and ~~or~~ medical device software, wherein the alteration of the medical device software comprises a software

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upgrade, and wherein the medical device data transmitted automatically by the medical device is representative of the alteration.

16. (currently amended)   The ~~machine-readable medium~~ processor-based system ~~program~~ as recited in claim 15, wherein the programming instructions enable the processor-based device to produce a service report containing data representative of at least one of a hardware and a software change to the medical device.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended)   The ~~machine-readable medium~~ processor-based system as recited in claim 15, wherein the system enables a user to use the remote device to revise the service report and to transmit the revised service report to the computer system via the network.

20. (previously presented)   The method as recited in claim 1, comprising operating the computer system to communicate the service report to a parts database via the communication network.

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented)   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the medical device data comprises an inventory of software and hardware in the medical device.

23. (cancelled)

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24. (currently amended)   The system of claim 12, wherein the signal representative of the change is automatically transmitted to the remote computer ~~where the change occurs~~.